

Notice of Public Hearing

by the

State of Nevada

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that a public hearing regarding the proposed modification of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit NV0023027 for a concentrated animal feeding operation, the Ponderosa Dairy, has been scheduled for 6:00 P.M. January 29, 2002 at the Amargosa Valley Multipurpose Building, 821 E. Amargosa Farm Road, Amargosa Valley, Nevada.

Public notice for the draft permit was given November 7, 2001 in the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Pahrump Valley Times. The Administrator has determined that there is sufficient public interest in this draft permit to warrant a public hearing.

The Applicant for the modification of NPDES Permit NV0023027 is:

Rockview Farms, Inc.
7011 Stewart and Gray Road
Downey, CA 90241-4347

The facility is located in Nye County, Nevada and is in portions of Sections 9, 10, and 15, Township 17 S, Range 49 E, in the town of Amargosa Valley, Nevada. Ponderosa is operated as Dairy 1 and Dairy 2 with Dairy 3 to be added as part of this major modification. Dairy 3 will increase the number of Ponderosa cows and calves by approximately 68%. Dairies 1 and 2 are approximately equal in size in terms of the number of cows housed and acres for confined feeding with a total area of 80 acres. Dairy #3 will add 60 acres to the confinement area.

Dairy 1 has an earthen lined pond system that consists of two lagoons and eight ponds. Dairy 2 has an earthen lined pond system that consists of three lagoons. The maximum 30-day average discharge to the two pond systems is 350,000 gallons per day (GPD). Dairy 3 is being designed to accommodate a maximum 30-day average discharge of 275,000 GPD. The Permittee uses a combination of evaporation and land application/reuse to dispose the liquid manure generated by the existing dairy facilities and has proposed similar utilization at Dairy 3. To reduce the nitrogen loading on the reuse fields, the ponds are aerated. To ensure that groundwater is not degraded, the Permittee is being given the option of lining the lagoons and ponds or installing monitoring wells at each pond system. The Permittee is allowed to discharge to surface waters, the Amargosa River, only during storms that exceed the 24-hour, 25-year storm event or as a result of a series of chronic rainfall events.

Members of the public wishing to comment upon the proposed permit and/or to recommend terms and conditions for consideration of incorporation in the permit are invited to attend the meeting and provide comments and information that are pertinent to the NPDES Permit. Comments not related to water quality issues cannot be considered. The Division may set a five-minute time limit for oral statements based on the number of people in attendance who would like to comment. Comments must also be submitted in writing to be addressed in the Notice of Decision. Comments and information may be submitted by interested persons through the close of the hearing.

Comments and information submitted to the Division, other than those to be presented at the hearing, must be received by 5:00 P.M. January 30, 2002, at the following address:

Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
333 W. Nye Lane, Room 129
Carson City, NV 89706

All comments and information received in writing during the public hearing will be considered in the final determination regarding this draft permit.

The application and all documents subsequent thereto are on file at the Division's office in Carson City and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 239.010 and NRS 445A.665. For additional information please contact Bruce Holmgren, Bureau of Water Pollution Control, at (775) 687-4670, extension 3153, or at bholmgre@govmail.state.nv.us.